

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being purportedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that it is unclear as to whether the “first feedback amplifier” of claim 27 is the same as the “first feedback amplifier” of claim 14. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 27 does not depend from claim 14 or vice versa, and therefore the term “first feedback amplifier” is recited separately in claims 14 and 27. Claims 14 and 27 are believed to be in proper dependent format. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 13-26 and 30-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being purportedly anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,616). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

FIG. 3 of Kim shows a memory sensing circuit having an NMOS transistor NM2 that is controlled by an operational amplifier OPA3. Another transistor MP102 is connected between transistor NM2 and power supply voltage VPD (Col. 6, lines 1-10).

By contrast, claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, a first transistor having a first conducting terminal coupled to a reference memory cell and a second conducting terminal for connection to a supply voltage. The Office Action relies upon NMOS transistor NM2 as purportedly being the “first transistor” of claim 13. However, NMOS transistor NM2 does not have a conducting terminal for connection to a supply voltage as recited in claim 13. Rather, FIG. 3 of Kim illustrates that transistor NM2 is separated from the supply voltage by transistor MP102. Kim does not teach or suggest a first transistor having a first conducting terminal coupled to a reference memory cell and a second conducting terminal for connection to a supply voltage; and a control circuit coupled to a control input of the first transistor. In view of the foregoing, claim 13 patentably distinguishes over Kim. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-36 depend from claim 13 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

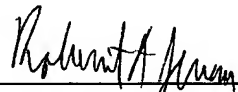
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Date: April 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Robert A. Jensen, Reg. No. 61,146
Wolf Greenfield & Sacks P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000